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Reviews of Foreign Literature.

De la Culture artificielle des Diatomees. Dr. P. Miquel. (Le Diatomiste, 1892–93, pp. 93–99; 121–128; 149–156; 165–172.)

In this series of articles just completed Dr. Miquel records, with great minuteness, the results of his experiments in propagating diatoms in the laboratory. He starts out by stating that in order to cultivate diatoms successfully, it is necessary to provide them with two kinds of food—saline food and organic food. Then follow formulæ for such nutritive fluids, and directions in detail for using them, together with suggestions as to light, temperature and sterilization of the culture fluid so as to prevent the growth of organisms which are inimical to the growth of the diatoms. The experiments include marine as well as fresh water cultures, and in the concluding article directions are given for the construction of culture cells, so that the various stages of growth may be watched under the microscope.

Not the least interesting portion of the paper is that which relates to the production of strange and abnormal varieties by varying the character of the culture fluid. These varieties Dr. Miquel calls "teratological growths." He states that he has followed them to the third generation, and describes some of the remarkable variations in form which resulted.

Within the last few years much attention has been given to the life history of diatoms, but no article bearing upon that subject has lately appeared that is likely to attract more attention than this. Dr. Miquel's experiments have suggested new lines of research, and they will doubtless be reported by other diatomists. The results of these observations will be watched with interest. The experiments in regard to "teratological growths," in particular, may clear up much of the present obscurity in regard to species, and may result in bringing together many now regarded as distinct. C. H. K.

Beitrage zur einer Monographie der Gattung Habenaria, Willd. F. Kranzlin. (Engler's Bot. Jahrb. xvi. 52–223.) This contribution towards a monograph of the genus *Habenaria* enumerates 347 species, mostly South American, African and Asiatic. The only species noted for the United States are two Southern species, *H.*

quinqueseta (Mx.) under the name *H. Michauxii,* Nutt., and *H. repens,* Nutt.

An interesting question in nomenclature is suggested by the author's use of *H. fimbriata,* Wight, for a species of the East Indies. Wight in 1852 adopted this name apparently under the impression that the *Platanthera fimbriata* of Willdenow, applied to a different genus, which would leave him at liberty to use it for *Habenaria.* But the name *fimbriata* must be rejected both in this case as well as in the case of our own *fimbriata,* so-called, as it was employed by Aiton in 1813 as a synonym of *H. psycodes* (L.), Asa Gray. T. M.

Rabenhorst's Kryptogamen Flora, Part 21, pp. 449–512 (1893), Mniaceæ and Meeseaceæ. Several changes in the genus *Mnium* which affect our North American species are of interest: *M. Seligeri,* Milde (1869), and *M. rugicum,* Laurer (1827), are separated from *M. affine,* Bland, the leaves of the former being long-decurrent at base with the marginal teeth one-celled, the second indistinctly toothed with base short-decurrent, and the last also short-decurrent, but the teeth composed of 2–4 cells. None of the older names adopted by Lindberg are accepted. E. G. B.

Proceedings of the Club.

Tuesday Evening, May 9th, 1893.

The President in the chair and 32 persons present.

Miss Gertrude Appleby, of New York, was elected an Active Member.

The committee appointed at the meeting of April 11th, 1893, to draw up a suitable minute regarding the death of M. Alphonse De Candolle for publication in the proceedings of the Club, presented the following report, which was accepted:

M. Alphonse De Candolle, an Honorary Member of this Club and one of the most eminent botanists of our time, died at Geneva, Switzerland, April 4th, 1893, in the 87th year of his age.

He was born at Paris, but resided most of his life in and near Geneva. He was a son of the equally famous Augustin Pyramus De Candolle, and was associated with him in much of the botani-